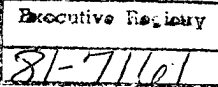


The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

29 April 1981

Dear Ms. Hiepl,

I am sorry I have taken so long in replying to your letter and those of the children in your class. The package of letters came in just after the election when I was busy organizing the transition from the Carter government to the Reagan government and I set them aside to read more carefully when I had time for them. They have just come to light. I read them last night and hasten to answer.

First, I think it was a very fine project which you and your sixth grade class undertook. A Presidential election is one of the most important things that happen in our country. It gives the people the opportunity to express themselves on how things are going and to call for a change in direction in our country. The people speak decisively on a single day. The winners proceed to organize a new government and the losers cooperate to make the change an orderly one.

I hope and believe that the Reagan government can meet the hopes expressed in the nicely written and intelligent letters from the members of your class. One of the things I hoped for has already been accomplished by the freeing of the hostages from Iran. I hope that the members of your class heard the President explain to the nation on television last night how his efforts to lower inflation and reduce taxes are going. I think the Congress will support him but everyone must realize that it took a great many years to create the inflation and the tax burden under which we are now suffering and that it will take some years to reduce them as much as they need to be reduced, but I believe, and I believe the country believes, that we can lose no time in starting this.

I am working hard in Washington and my work requires me to travel abroad a good deal so that I do not return home very often.

Please share this letter with the members of your class. Tell them to keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

  
William J. Casey

Ms. Kathleen Hiepl  
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